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Miller

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[54] **MAGNETIC NAME-TAG**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A44C 3/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **40/1.6**; 40/661; 40/661.01; 40/775

[58] **Field of Search** 40/1.5, 1.6, 661, 40/661.01, 600, 621, 775, 776; 2/247, 244

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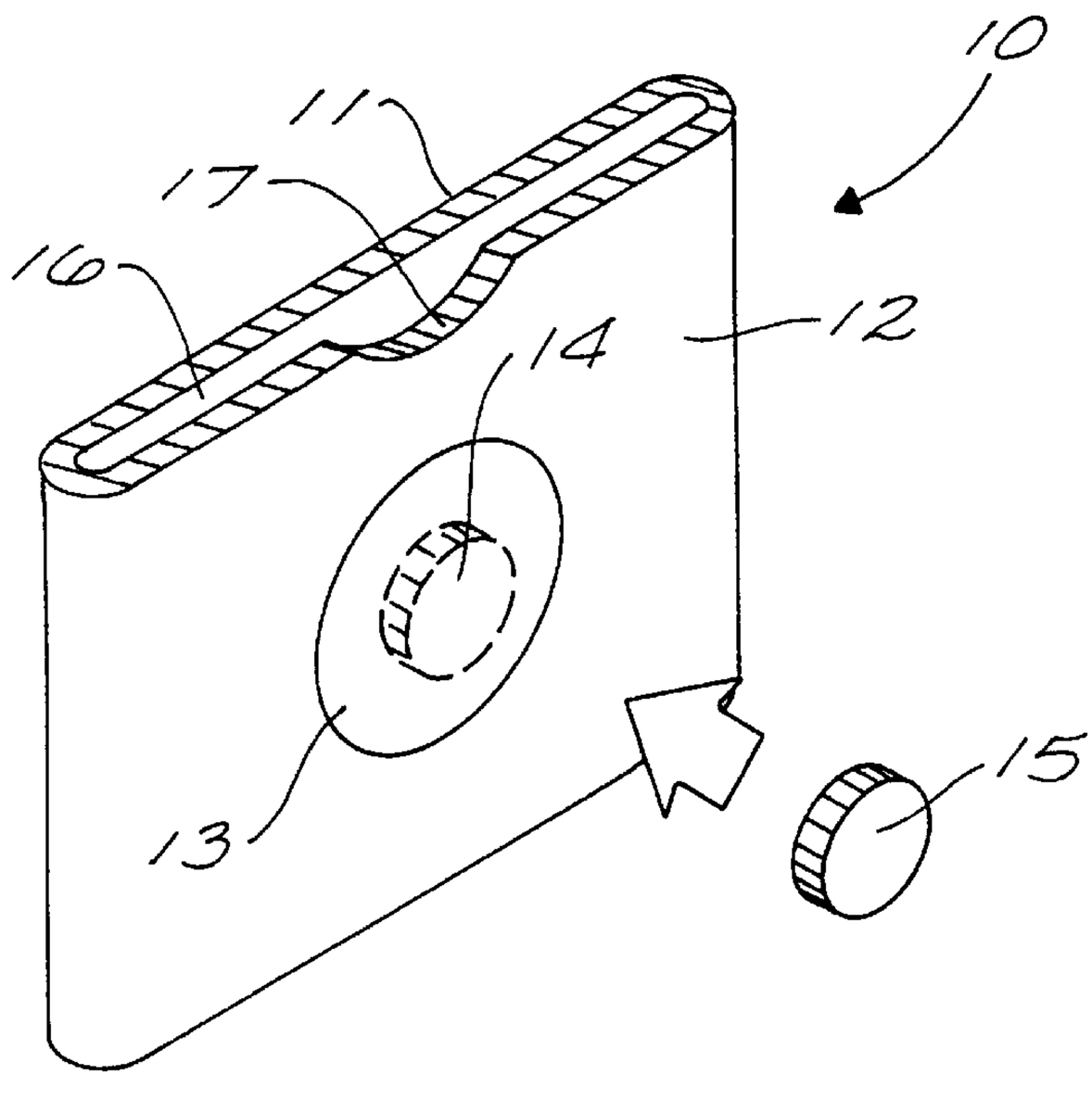
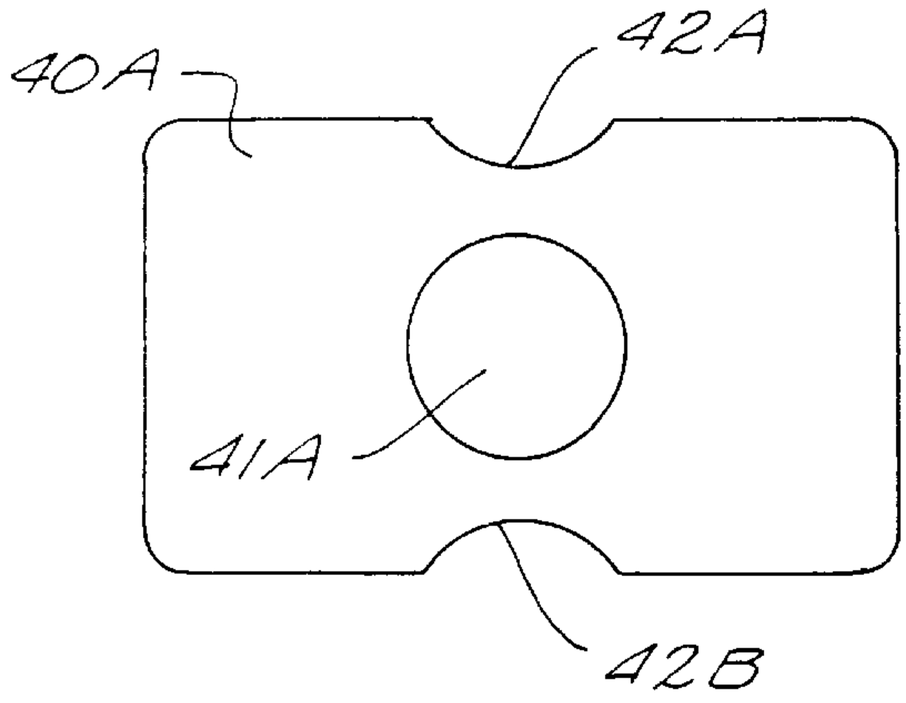
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A label holder which is formed by an exterior portion having a label holding envelope and an attached disk of metal (such as within a sealed envelope). The label holder is secured to the user's clothing through magnetic forces which are exerted by a magnet placed on the inner surface of the clothing. The metal disk is attracted to the magnet and is held to the clothing without the need of pins or other fasteners which pierce the clothing and can cause damage thereto.

12 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets





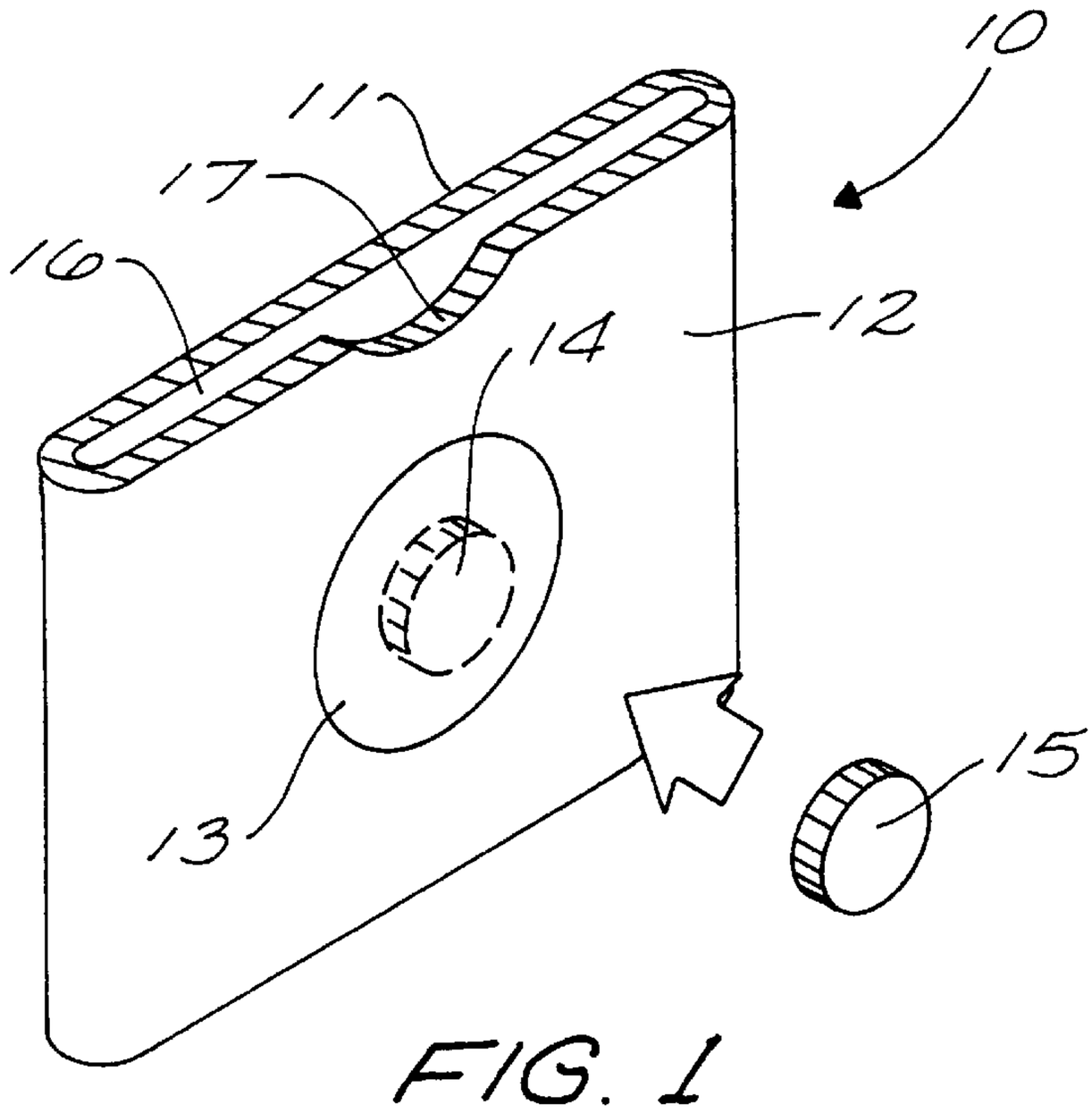


FIG. 1

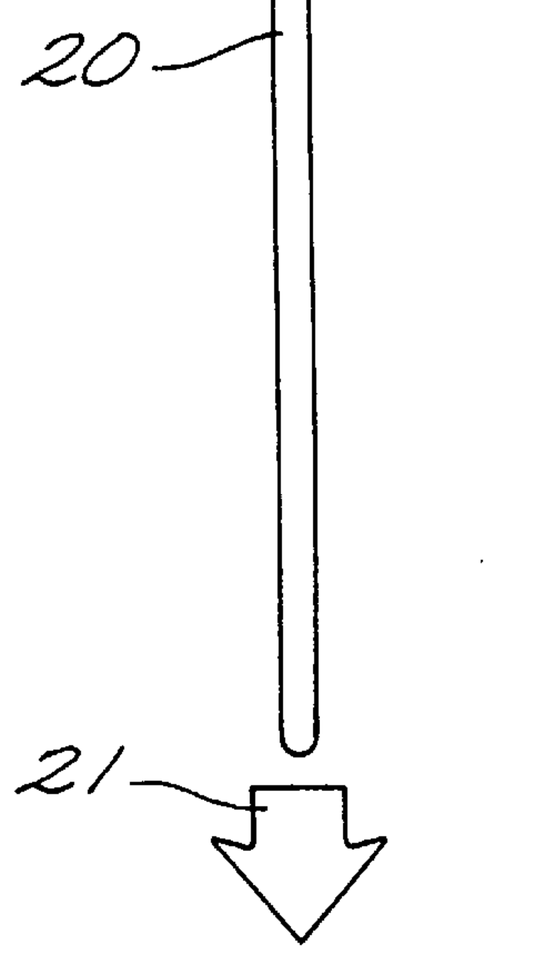


FIG. 2

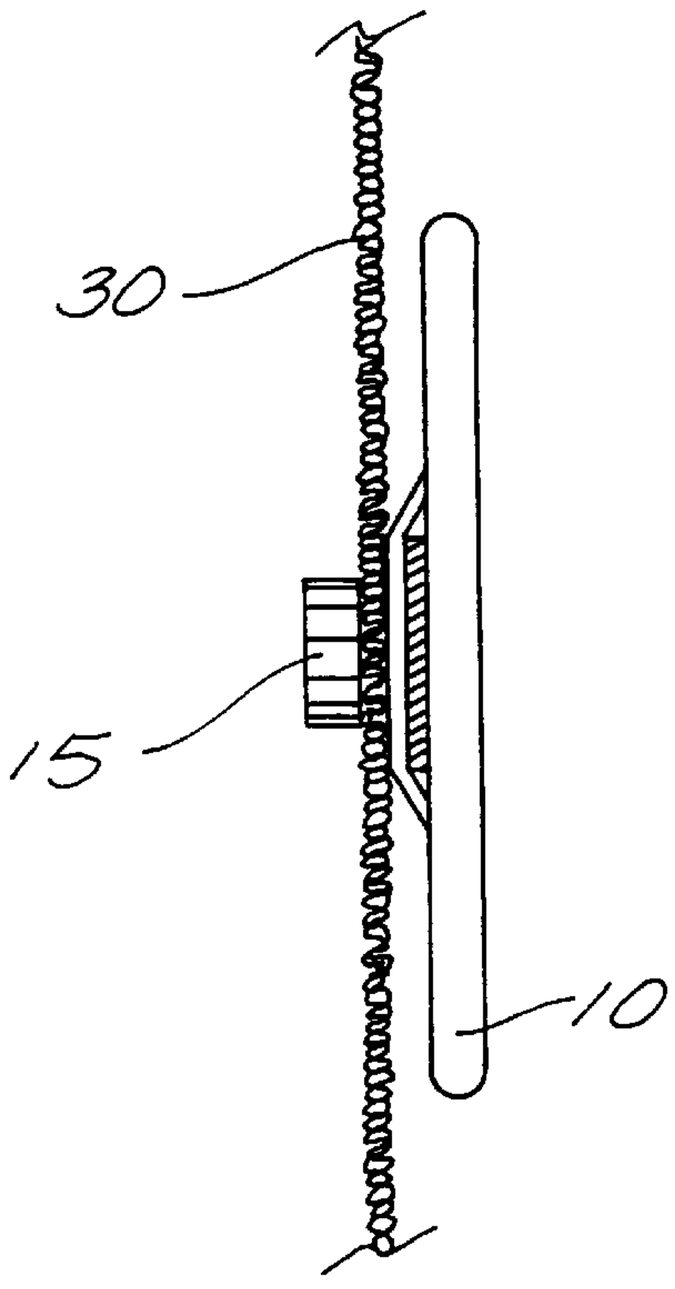


FIG. 3

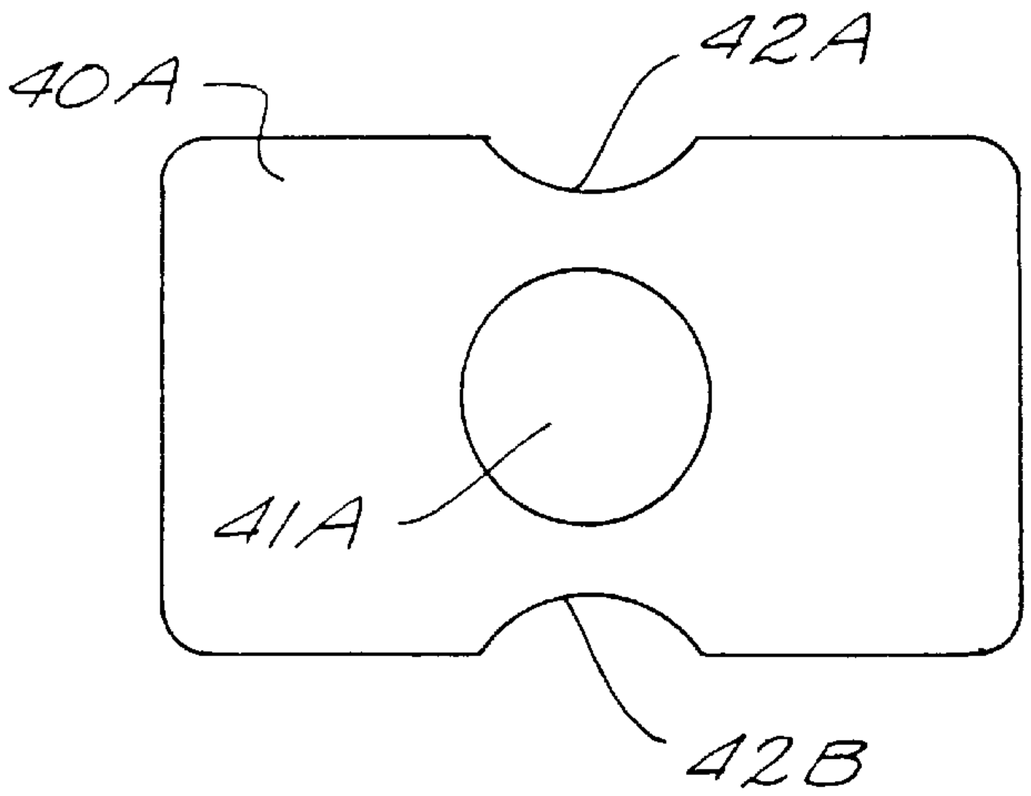
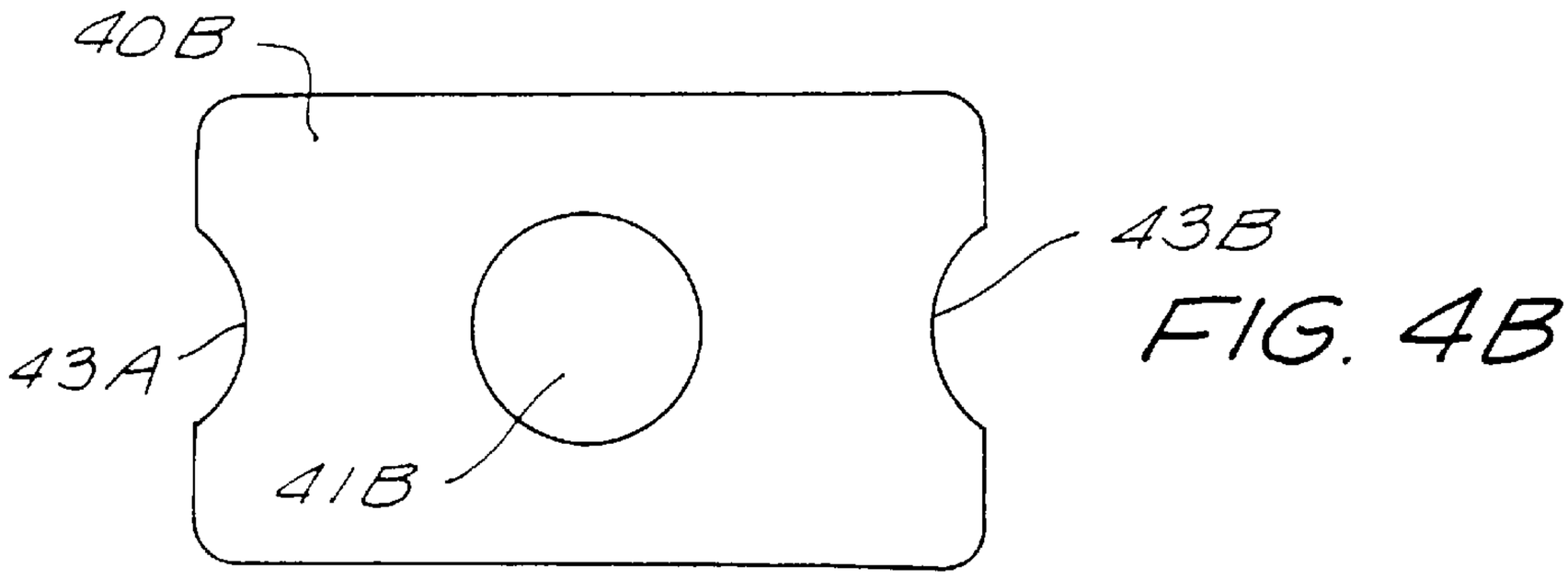


FIG. 4A



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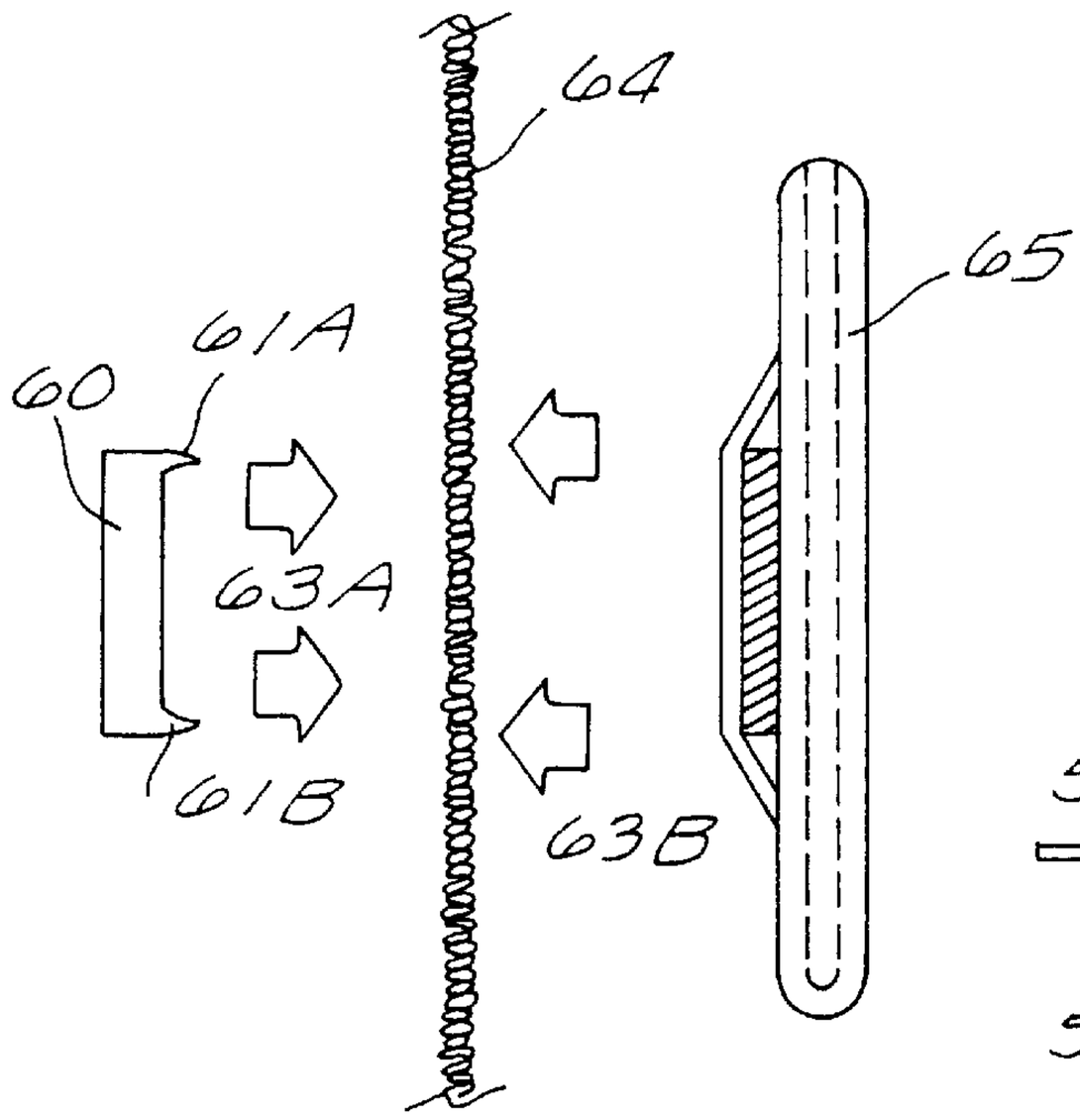

FIG. 6

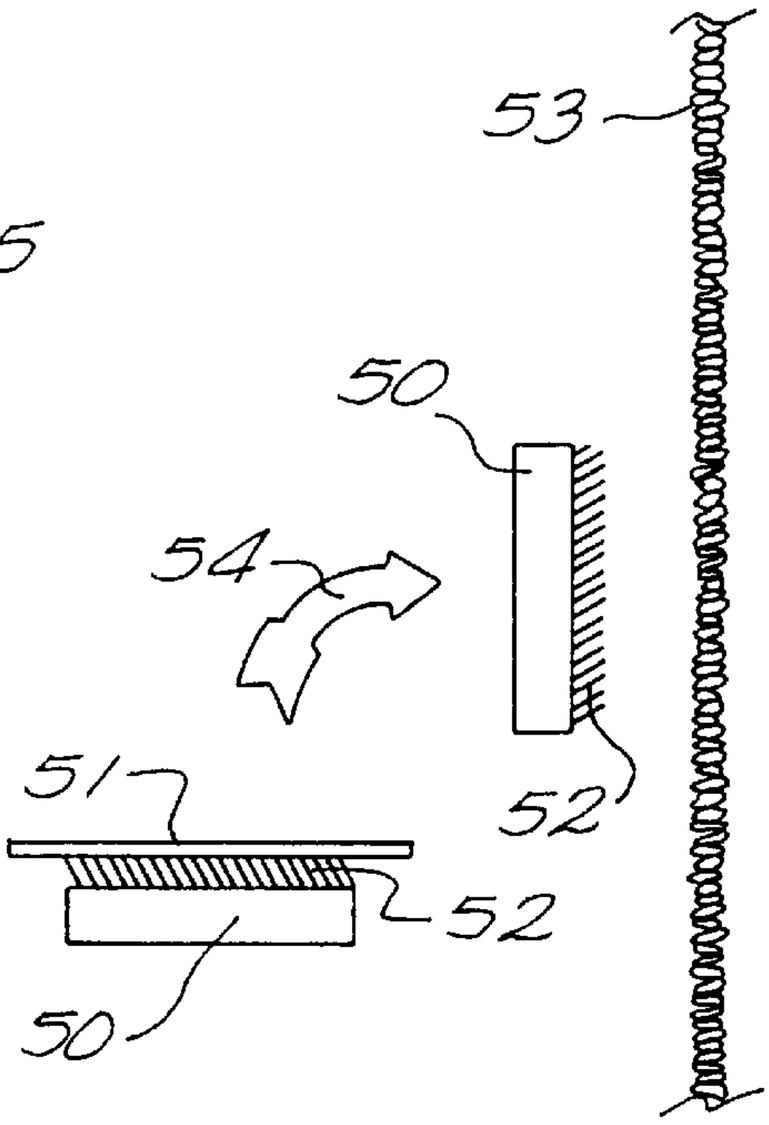

FIG. 5

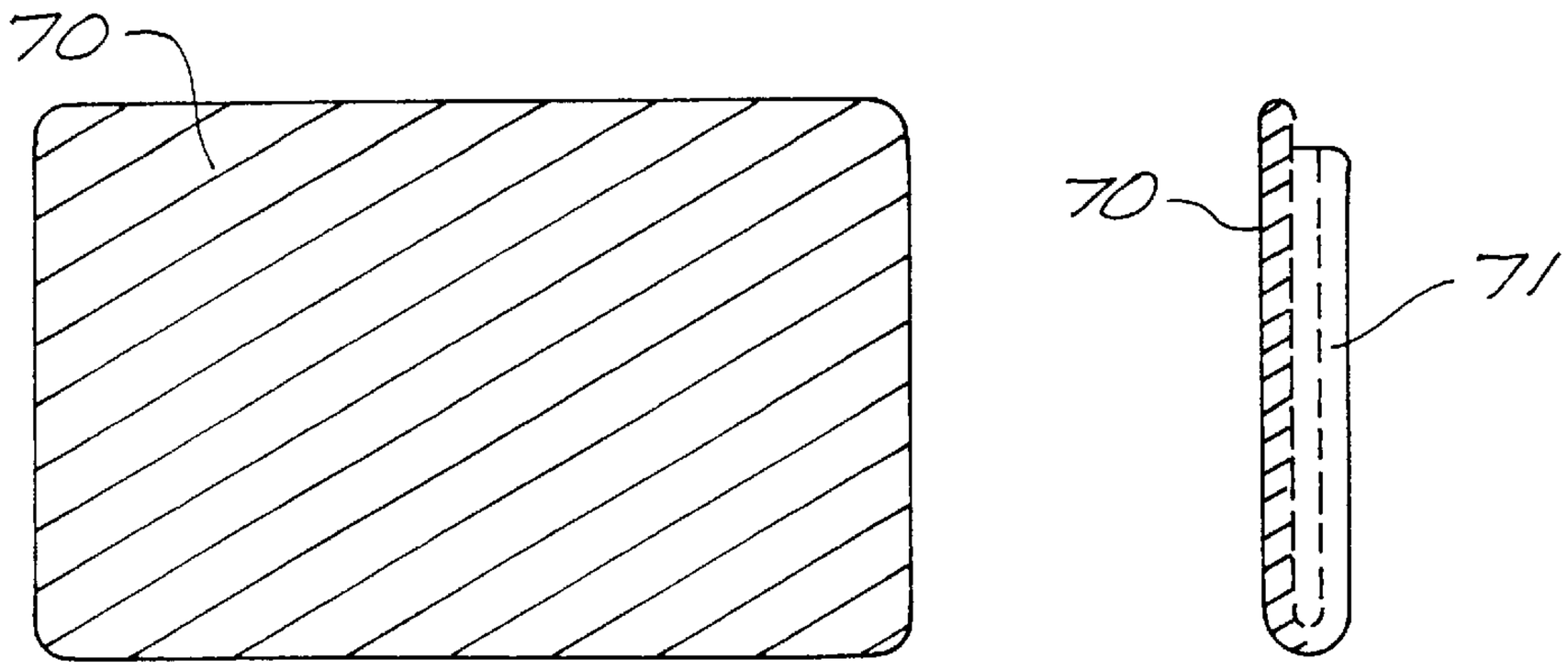
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FIG. 7

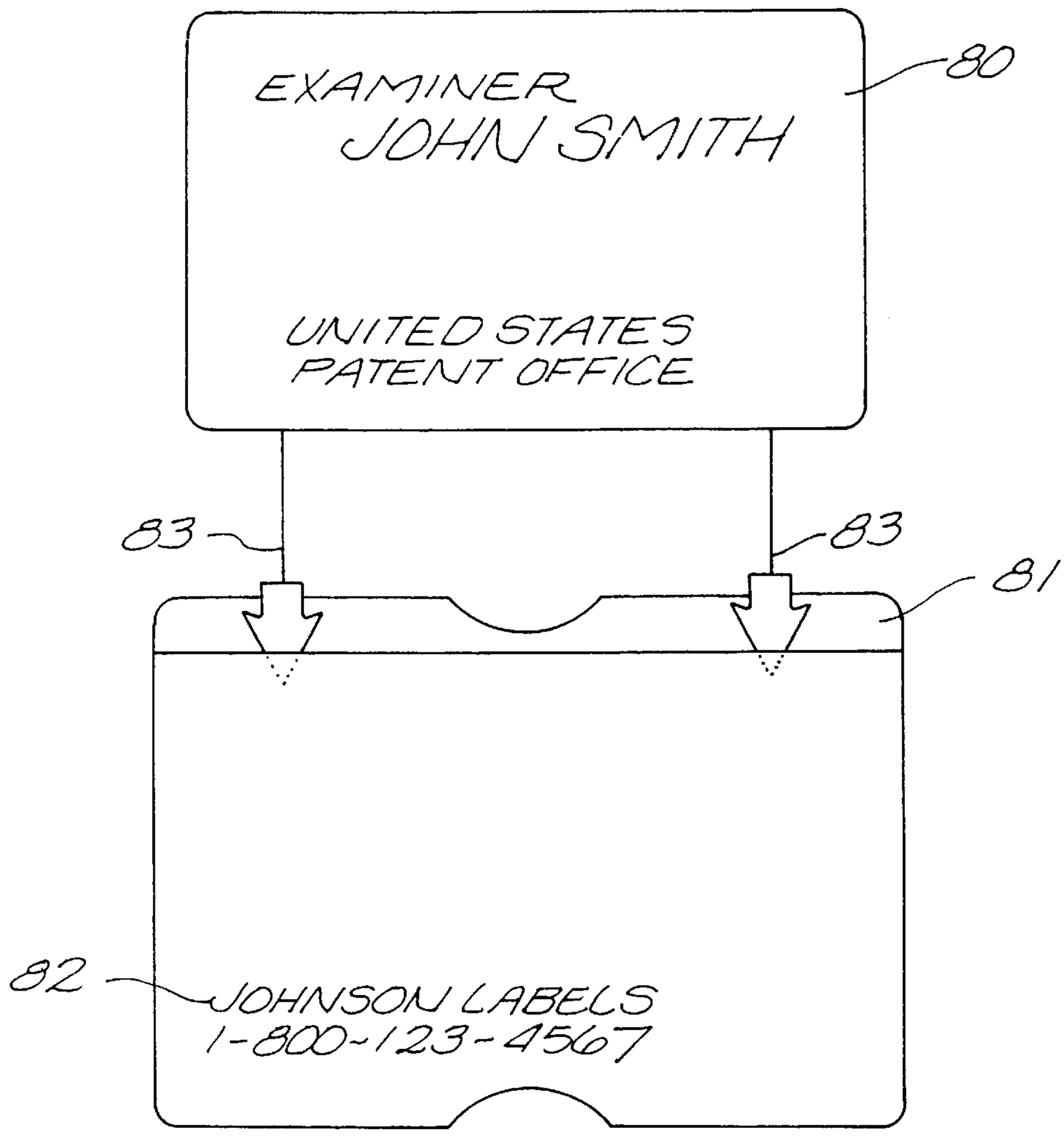
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FIG. 8

MAGNETIC NAME-TAG

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to mechanisms used to identify users and more particularly to name-tags.

To an ever growing number of people, business requires the attendance at a variety of symposiums, meetings, seminars, and shows where others at the function are seldom known. In such situations, a common practice is to provide the attendees with labels which are pinned or pasted onto the attendee's clothing. In such situations, the attendees are often wearing expensive clothing which the attendee wants to maintain in a quality condition.

The paste-type of label tends to leave a residue and is often not tailorable by the wearer to include their company logo as the label is often printed by the hosting organization. Further, should the attendee want to leave the symposium, the pasted label is not removed since its removal destroys its capability to be used again when the attendee returns to the symposium.

In the case of a pinned label holder, the mere insertion and removal of the pin causes minute damage to the cloth which becomes greatly aggregated through repeated use. In some fabrics, such as silk, the use of a pinned label is totally unacceptable as even a single use damages the delicate material.

Further, the pin on the label has a sharp end which often pricks the wearer which can cause a drop of blood to stain or damage fine clothing.

It is clear that there is a need for an efficient mechanism to secure and release name tags from a user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention includes a label holder which has an exterior portion having a label holding envelope and a sealed envelope containing a disk of metal therein. The exterior portion of the label holding envelope is transparent (such as clear plastic) which allows a printed label therein to be readily read.

In the preferred embodiment, the back surface of the label holding envelope shares a sealed envelope containing a metal member which is attracted to magnetic forces. The preferred metal member is a disk of steel being generally circular in nature. In another embodiment, the metal member covers substantially the entire back surface; in still another embodiment, the metal member is a flat strip which extends from one edge of the back surface to the other edge.

In order to secure the label holder to the user's clothing, a magnet is positioned on the inner surface of the user's blouse or shirt while the label holder's metal disk is positioned on the exterior surface of the clothing. Through magnetic force, the magnet/metal press the cloth between the two of them to secure the label holder to the shirt or blouse.

The metal disk is attracted to the magnet. In this context, the level of "squeezing" performed by the magnet and metal is determined by the amount of metal used and the magnetic strength created by the magnet.

As an alternative embodiment, the rear panel of the label holder is "doped" with metal shavings during its creation. This doping of metal provides an entire surface which responds to the magnetic forces created by the magnet.

In one embodiment of the invention, a mild adhesive is placed on one side of the magnet. This adhesive is sufficient

to secure the magnet to the interior surface of the shirt or blouse so that when the label holder is removed, the magnet does not fall.

This embodiment is particularly useful where the user wants to periodically remove the label (i.e. when they leave the pavilion for lunch at a restaurant) and does not want to have to maneuver the magnet as well. The magnet is simply left in place for later use when the user returns to the pavilion.

In this manner, the label holder is securely held to the clothing without the need of pins or other fasteners which pierce the clothing and can cause damage thereto.

The invention, together with various embodiments thereof will be more fully explained by the accompanying drawings and the following explanation.

DRAWINGS IN BRIEF

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **2** is a side view of an embodiment of the invention showing the label holder and its receipt of the printed label.

FIG. **3** is a side view of the preferred embodiment secured to a garment.

FIGS. **4**A and **4**B are views of alternative embodiments illustrating two placements for the finger indexes.

FIG. **5** illustrates the placement of an embodiment of the magnet which has one side treated with a mild adhesive.

FIG. **6** is a side view of the placement of an embodiment of the magnet having prongs to provide additional adherence to the garment.

FIG. **7** is a back and side view of an embodiment of the invention in which the rear panel has been doped with metal shavings.

FIG. **8**, is a frontal view of an embodiment of the invention in which imprinting on the rear panel is visible through the front panel.

DRAWINGS IN DETAIL

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the invention.

Label holder **10** has a front panel **11** which is clear so that a label is readily read therethrough. Rear panel **12** is secured to front panel **11** such that, in this embodiment, opening **16** is created allowing a printed label (not shown) to be inserted therein.

Rear panel **12** also has secured thereto a sealed envelope **13** which contains metal disk **14**. Sealed envelope **13**, in this embodiment, is positioned substantially at the center of rear panel **12**. Finger index **17** is positioned at a top edge of rear panel **12** directly over sealed envelope **13**.

Finger index **17** permits the user to obtain tactile positioning information as label holder is being positioned onto the garment relative to magnet **15**.

FIG. **2** is a side view of an embodiment of the invention showing the label holder and its receipt of the printed label.

In this embodiment, rear panel **12**A extends above front panel **11**A of label holder **10**A. Using the opening at the top, label **20** is readily inserted between the two panels as indicated by arrow **21**.

As discussed before, sealed envelope **13**A encloses metal disk **14**A to rear panel **12**A.

In some embodiments, rear panel **12**A is clear while in other embodiments, rear panel **12**A is colored or contains a

printed message therein. One such message includes the trademark of the manufacturer of the label holder. This trademark is not visible when label **20** is positioned, but, when label **20** has been removed, the trademark is clearly read through front panel **11**A; thereby permitting the user to identify the manufacturer for the next order of label holders.

FIG. **3** is a side view of the preferred embodiment secured to a garment.

Magnet **15** draws label holder **10** firmly against garment **30**. The strength of the attraction is determined by the mass of metal disk and the strength of magnet **15**. In some situations, a moderately strong magnet is sufficient (i.e. for a polyester blouse) while in other applications, a stronger magnet is required (i.e. for a cotton work shirt) to obtain proper adhesion of the label holder **10** to garment **30**.

FIGS. **4**A and **4**B are views of alternative embodiments illustrating two placements for the finger indexes.

In the embodiment of FIG. **4**A, rear panel **40**A has metal disk **41**A secured thereto. Metal disk **41**A is positioned substantially at the center of rear panel **40**A. At the top edge and at the bottom edge of rear panel **40**A are positioned finger indexes **42**A and **42**B respectively. When the user grasps rear panel **40**A by finger indexes **42**A and **42**B, the user's fingers are positioned in line with metal disk **41**A. This tactile feed-back permits the user to accurately identify the location of metal disk **41**A so that it can be positioned relative to the magnet (not shown).

In similar fashion, FIG. **4**B illustrates the situation where finger indexes **43**A and **43**B are positioned at the side edges of rear panel **40**B. Again, finger indexes **43**A and **43**B are in line with metal disk **41**B permitting the user to "target" metal disk **41**B.

FIG. **5** illustrates the placement of an embodiment of the magnet which has one side treated with a mild adhesive.

In some applications, the user of the label holder wishes to periodically remove the label holder. In such situations, magnet **50** is preferably used. Magnet **50** comes packaged with mild adhesive **52** on one side thereof. A releasable paper backing **51** is provided to protect mild adhesive **52** until such time that magnet **50** is intended to be used.

In using magnet **50**, paper backing **51** is peeled away to expose mild adhesive **52**. Magnet **50** is then pressed against an interior surface of garment **53** as illustrated by arrow **54**. Mild adhesive **52** secures magnet **50** to garment **53**; thereby permitting the label holder (not shown) to be removed whenever the user desires without the need to "catch" magnet **50**.

FIG. **6** is a side view of the placement of an embodiment of the magnet having prongs to provide additional adherence to the garment.

In this embodiment, magnet **60** is provided with two prongs **61**A and **61**B. While this embodiment uses two prongs, any number of prongs is available.

Prongs **61**A and **61**B are intended to partially penetrate garment **64** when magnet **60** is pressed, as indicated by arrows **63**A, against garment **64**. Label holder **65**, with its attendant metal disk, is placed as indicated by arrows **63**B to also draw prongs **61**A and **61**B into garment **64**.

Prongs **61**A and **61**B, once pressed into garment **64**, prevent the assembly from "slipping" from the desired position and are particularly advantageous with slick garments made of silk or nylon.

FIG. **7** is a back and side view of an embodiment of the invention in which the rear panel has been doped with metal shavings.

Rear panel **70** has a generally uniform doping of metal particles placed within the plastic material itself. These metal particles may be flakes of metal but are preferably metal dust. The metal doping tends to obscure visibility through the plastic composing rear panel **70**, so front panel **71** is preferably not doped with any metal.

This embodiment allows the user to position the magnet anywhere relative to the rear panel and still obtain adhesion thereto. In this embodiment, finger indexes are generally not used.

FIG. **8**, is a frontal view of an embodiment of the invention in which imprinting on the rear panel is visible through the front panel.

Label **80** identifies the attendee and is inserted into label holder **81** as illustrated by arrows **83**. When label **80** is contained with label holder **81**, printing **82**, on the back panel of label holder **81**, is obscured; but, without label **80**, printing **82** is clearly visible through the front panel of the label holder.

As noted earlier, printing **82** is created during manufacture of the label holder. The preferred content for printing **82** is an identifier of the label holder's manufacturer. This allows a user to easily make another order for the product.

It is clear that the present invention creates a highly versatile name tag that permits easy attachment of release without damaging the user's clothing.

What is claimed is:

1. A name-tag combination comprising:

a) a holder having,

1) a primary envelope configured to accept a label, said primary envelope having a front panel and a rear panel, said rear panel having a first finger index located at a center location and along an upper edge of said rear panel, said rear panel further having a second finger index located at a center location and along a lower edge of said rear panel,

2) a sealed envelope formed substantially at a center location of the rear panel of said primary envelope, and,

3) a metal member being totally contained within said sealed envelope; and,

b) a magnet adapted to be placed to form magnetic attraction with said metal member.

2. The name-tag according to claim **1**, wherein said magnet is substantially smaller than said metal member.

3. The name-tag combination according to claim **2**, wherein said magnet includes at least two prongs adapted to engage an interior surface of an article of clothing.

4. The name-tag combination according to claim **1**, wherein a surface of said magnet is coated with an adhesive.

5. The name-tag combination according to claim **4**, further including a releasable covering secured to the adhesive on said magnet.

6. The name-tag combination according to claim **1**, wherein said sealed envelope is positioned substantially at a center location of said rear panel of said primary envelope.

7. A combination comprising:

a) an article of clothing adapted to be worn; and,

b) a name-tag holder having,

1) a label,

2) a holder having,

A) a primary envelope configured to accept said label, said primary envelope having a front panel and a rear panel, said rear panel having a first finger index located at a center location along an upper edge of said rear panel, said rear panel further having a second finger index located at a center location along a lower edge of said rear panel, and,

B) a sealed envelope formed in the rear panel of said primary envelope containing a planar metal member, said sealed envelope positioned substantially at the center of said rear panel; and,

c) a magnet adapted to be placed on an interior surface of said article of clothing to form magnetic attraction with said metal member positioned on an exterior surface of said article of clothing.

8. The combination according to claim 7, wherein said magnet is substantially smaller than said metal member and includes at least two prongs adapted to engage said interior surface of said article of clothing.

9. The combination according to claim 7, wherein said sealed envelope is positioned substantially at a center location of said rear panel of said primary envelope.

10. A label holder comprising:

a) a primary envelope configured to accept a label, said primary envelope having a front transparent panel and a rear panel, said rear panel having a first finger index located at a center location along an upper edge thereof, said rear panel further having a second finger index located at a center location along a lower edge thereof;

b) a metal member secured to said rear panel substantially at a center location thereof; and,

c) a magnet adapted to be placed on an interior surface of an article of clothing such that magnetic force secures said primary envelope to an exterior surface of the article of clothing.

11. The label holder according to claim 11, wherein said magnet includes at least two prongs adapted to engage said interior surface of said article of clothing.

12. The label holder according to claim 11, wherein said metal member is positioned substantially at a center location of said rear panel of said primary envelope.

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